

To: Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]
From: Mylott, Richard
Sent: Thur 8/6/2015 7:24:35 PM
Subject: Re: Mining Waste in the water

Thanks David.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 6, 2015, at 1:22 PM, "Gray, David" <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Jess,

Here you go. Also I am including the PIO from our Denver office since Colorado is within their jurisdiction. His name is Rich Mylott.

David

August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to

confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 6, 2015, at 2:10 PM, O'Neill, Jess <jmoneill@hearst.com> wrote:

Sorry for the mishap!

From: O'Neill, Jess
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2015 3:06 PM
To: gray.david@epa.gov; durant.jennah@epa.gov
Subject: Mining Waste in the water

Hi David and Jennah,

My name is Jesse O'Neill with KOAT Action 7 News in Albuquerque New Mexico.

The state police tell me that the federal EPA is on site downriver from the mine discharge in southern Colorado (link to story of the discharge below).

Can you confirm that there are EPA investigators on site?

Can you tell me what they have found?

Are residents in danger from the contaminants in the water?

And lastly, can you issue a statement from the EPA for us to use on all platforms?

Robert Daguillard in your DC office suggested I contact you both.

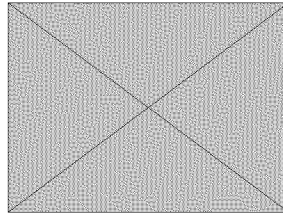
I am working under deadline.

Many thanks -

Jess

505.331.1711

<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20150806/NEWS01/150809765/River-users-warned-of-mine-waste-approaching-Durango->



The Durango Herald 08/06/2015 | River users warned of
mine waste approaching Durango

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